

Meeting Date: October 3, 2011

Called to order: 5:15pm by Laura Gonzales

Members Present:

Laura Gonzales
Jeannie Jackson
Robert Newby
Susan Poindexter
Maureen Eke
Shirley Decker
Raquel Fruh

Members Absent:

Kira Gray
Lisa Sovereign-excused
Elizabeth Husbands-excused
Mandy Wigren
Joe Albrecht—Intern-excused

1. Welcome & Introduction of New Members

Committee members were welcomed by Laura Gonzales, Chair.

2. Approval of Agenda:

The motion made by Jeannie Jackson and seconded by Susan Poindexter to approve the agenda as presented was unanimously supported by the committee members.

3. Public Comments:

None

4. Approval of Minutes of September 12, 2011 Meeting

Changes made to the minutes will be implemented by Elizabeth Husbands, Secretary, and placed on the internet by Laura Gonzales. A motion to accept the minutes, as corrected, was made by Shirley Poindexter and seconded by Robert Newby. The motion was unanimously supported by the committee members.

5. Old Business:

a) Grad Student/HRC Intern Update

1. Joe Albrecht cannot attend due to classes. He continues to work on the newsletter and found a possible grant from the ARCUS Foundation. He would like the committee's input. Maureen Eke agreed to look at the grant but would like to see the deadline. Laura Gonzales said that Joe Albrecht will e-mail the grant information and the committee members can share ideas on the grant.

b) Mt. Pleasant/MI Roundtable

1. The next community meeting will be on October 20, 2011 at 7pm in the Ziibiwing Center. Elizabeth Husbands will present an overview on what the Mt. Pleasant/MI Roundtable hopes to accomplish through their strategic plan. Guests are welcomed and encouraged.

c) Treatment of CMU Gay and Lesbian Students

1. Laura Gonzales called Shannon Jolliff, CMU Director of LGBT Programs and left a message. She plans to follow up again with Shannon and John Humiston (Advisor to Spectrum, CMU Student Organization).

2. Jeannie Jackson suggested that the student be referred to her but clarified that this would not be in association with Central Michigan University.
3. Maureen Eke shared that her students told her this type of discrimination occurs often. She invited her students to attend a Human Rights Committee meeting to share their experiences.

d) *Michigan Alliance Against Hate Crimes*

1. Raquel Fruh was asked by Laura Gonzales to create a plan detailing the steps that will be taken to create a response team in Isabella County. Also, the committee members would like clarification on who should be on the response team. Raquel Fruh inquired if Joe Albrecht can create a contact list of key people in Isabella County. Jeannie Jackson will send to Raquel Fruh and Laura Gonzales the e-mail address list of people who were in attendance at the 2 previous Hate Crime Response Team meetings.

e) *Tribal Request*

1. Laura Gonzales said that she had not heard anything new about the grant proposal requested from the 2% funds.

f) *HRC Memberships*

1. Laura Gonzales reported that David Ling had spoken with Kira Grey. He asked her to turn in her resignation as a member of HRC, per action taken at an HRC meeting. He told Kira he would send her a note via e-mail, with a form to sign with her signature. Then she just needed to take it to Christy Cotter at the County Administrator's Office.
2. Since Elizabeth Husbands will request to be the next representative for the schools, (after Kira completes her resignation), then she will work with David Ling to encourage someone from the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe to apply to be appointed to the Human Rights Committee.

g) *Human Rights Conference at CMU*

1. Maureen Eke reported that the preparations for the conference are going well and that a strong pool of presenters is likely to make the conference a success. The program was finalized and the conference will take place on 11/11 and 11/12. Registration is at the Powers Ballroom from 8-9:30 AM. The Ziibiwing Center is co-sponsoring this event.
2. Pens and letter openers with the Human Rights Committee emblem will be given to conference registrants.
3. Almost everyone on the Human Rights Committee will attend. Maureen Eke said that Christy Cotter received a registration confirmation and Laura Gonzales will follow up on that information.

h) *HRC Pens and Letter Openers*

Laura Gonzales officially thanked Elizabeth Husbands for ordering the pens and letter openers.

i) *Soup and Substance Presentation at CMU about HRC in November*

Ulana Klymyshyn, Director of Office of Diversity Education, is working on a potential date in November. Overall, the committee prefers to present in January. Laura Gonzales will follow up with Ulana on setting a date, if it is not already set for November.

6. New Business:

a) HRC Meeting Minutes Distribution

Maureen Eke made a motion stating that nobody outside the Human Rights Committee should get the official minutes until they are revised and adopted by the committee. This motion was seconded by Jeannie Jackson and approved unanimously. Non-committee member names will be edited off the list serve and Christy Cotter will be informed of this decision.

b) Robert Newby inquired about the county-wide Anti-Discrimination Ordinance. He wanted clarification on the Human Rights Committee's role. Since he feels we are given our authority by the commissioners, there is a conflict of interest to advise the City Commissioners to adopt the ordinance. On the other hand, Maureen Eke thinks we were given this authority by the Commissioners and thus there is no conflict of interest. Jeannie Jackson said that if this ordinance was going to die, our committee should sponsor it. Laura Gonzales clarified that she heard that Kathy Ling felt that it was a human rights issue and therefore she suggested the issue be taken to the Human Rights Committee. However, The Mt. Pleasant Human Rights Ordinance Initiative Committee wants our support and plans on moving forward. Laura Gonzales encourages us to show support by attending the next meeting; she will e-mail the committee further information. Robert Newby also stated that he will talk to David Ling about this issue and find out how we can help. He clarified that the Human Rights Committee is a legislative group and not a political group. Therefore, a coalition from the community is called to push the ordinance forward.

c) Raquel Fruh inquired about the Power Summit in Flint on October 14-16, planned by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and Unity Michigan (a coalition of GLBT organizations working to pass legislation). Laura Gonzales will forward the e-mail information from Norma Bailey to the HRC.

d) Raquel Fruh made a motion for Human Rights Committee members to be reimbursed for gas money when attending related events. The motion was seconded by Jeannie Jackson, and the motion received unanimous approval.

Announcements:

No announcements.

Tonight's meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Submitted by Raquel Fruh